

## JEROME SEEKS RENOMINATION

BY PETITION AND NOT BY EITHER MACHINE.

**Dedicated to Be Answerable to Any Organization Leaders—Would Not Be Mayor If He Could, but Desires Four Years More as Prosecutor—Formal Statement**

District Attorney Jerome announced last night that he is a candidate for reelection as District Attorney, provided he is nominated by petition, which under the election law requires 2,000 signatures. Mr. Jerome says he is not desirous of being Mayor and never has been. He wants to be District Attorney if he can get it. He does not want the nomination to come from any political machine. Of course this does not mean that if either of the political parties should care to endorse his candidacy he will push aside the endorsement. This is Mr. Jerome's statement:

"I do not desire and never have desired to be a candidate for the office of Mayor of the city of New York, or to be Mayor of the city."

"I desire to serve another term as District Attorney of New York county."

"I have served in this office for three and one-half years as faithfully as I know how."

"I believe I have served efficiently."

"I know I have served honestly."

"I do not claim that I have not made mistakes. A man can incur no infamy, but not the infamy of his judgment."

"I am not, and never have been, a member of any political organization, although a Democrat in national politics. It seems to me that the issues which divide the people in national politics have no real application to the questions which arise in State or local affairs."

"It seems to me that one of the greatest evils of the present time is that small groups of men have, and not infrequently a single man has, obtained control of the executive machinery of party organizations and nominating conventions and stand between the public servant and the voters. The result is that one in public office has to choose between a termination of his public career or subservience to such a man or group of men. The public officer, as a consequence, frequently feels no responsibility to the people, but only to those who can secure for him a return to office or future promotion."

"In the exercise of their power such men and groups of men are wholly selfish, almost entirely irresponsible, and not infrequently corrupt."

"A man who works with such a group and receives favors at their hands cannot under implicit obligations which cannot honorably be disregarded. He cannot work for their favor and still be free to deal with them as he deems proper in obedience to his conscience."

"The statements I have frequently made in public as to the duties of a district attorney, and still believe, to be true, and I am determined to act in accordance with them."

"Should the people of New York county desire me to serve them for four years more as District Attorney, I shall gladly accept, at their hands, the office. I shall feel that my obligation is to them and I shall serve them faithfully and as efficiently as my abilities enable me."

"Should the command of the people be to retire me from public office there will of course be no choice but to return to the practice of the law."

"But I do not propose to remain in office by the grace of any man or group of men such as I have indicated, and I shall retire from office only as a consequence of the mandate of the people."

"When I say 'the mandate of the people' I mean precisely that, and I know of no way other than that provided by the election law of ascertaining what the people desire in such a matter."

"Therefore, if at the proper time there are 2,000 electors in the county of New York who desire to have me again run for the office of District Attorney, of that county, I shall cause a petition to be filed nominating me for election to that office and in this way submit it to the people of this county to say whether or not they desire me to serve them for another term in the office I now hold."

"To my friends it is not necessary to say that there have been absolutely no dealings with any political organization, political leader or group of politicians with reference to my candidacy to this or any other office, and that I am now simply making public a purpose formed and communicated to a number of my friends as early as February of this year."

"As indicated by Mr. Jerome in his statement, he has not offered himself as a candidate without mature consideration. He has had the matter under advisement since February and has gone into all of its aspects. In addition he has sought the advice of friends and men whose political wisdom he respects. Every phase of his candidacy by petition has been studied and weighed, not only by himself, but by his advisers. Just what the opinion of his advisers was is not known, but Mr. Jerome decided that yesterday was the proper time to take his stand."

"It costs a lot of money to run a campaign without the aid of a political organization, but it is understood that Mr. Jerome is not worried by that feature of the situation. He is said to have promised of all the financial backing necessary for campaign purposes."

"If Mr. Jerome has 2,000 friends who will sign his petition, there is nothing to prevent him getting into the race. Any other man has the same privilege, 'was the only comment Charles F. Murphy would make last night on Mr. Jerome's statement. He declined also to answer any inquiries as to the answer Tammany Hall will make to the Citizens' Union circular."

**THREE KILLED IN RIOT.**

American and Italian Coal Diggers Fight in West Virginia.

WHEELING, W. Va., July 31.—Three men were killed and ten injured in a riot between American and Italian coal diggers at Giant, W. Va., this morning. The entire mining settlement is torn up over the battle. It began in a drunken row, starting Saturday night and continuing until early this morning. Two weeks ago the racial prejudice went beyond bounds and several persons were injured. That intensified this morning's battle, for since the former trouble all of the miners had armed themselves.

Three young Italian diggers were shot and killed, while those wounded with pistol and knife wounds, several of whom are in a critical condition.

## CZAR HOLDS COUNCIL TO-DAY.

Scheme for a National Assembly to Receive Final Consideration.

**Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.**  
ST. PETERSBURG, July 31.—To-morrow the Czar will preside at a council of the Ministers at Peterhof, at which the Government's project for a national assembly will receive final consideration. It is not expected that the revised scheme which already has been approved by the council will be materially altered.

As at present arranged the project will be promulgated on Aug. 12, the birthday of the Czar, but it is believed that the exact date and the tenor of the Czar's manifesto promulgating the scheme will depend on the course of the peace negotiations. As regards the success of the negotiations opinion here is skeptical.

It is understood that the project provides for elections every five years. The Czar will have the right to prorogue or dissolve the assembly and to determine the duration of the sessions.

The assembly will be entitled to pronounce on all Government bills, the budget and all credits desired by the State. If thirty members desire it, the introduction of amendments will be modified. Existing statutes they must convey their request, with a draft, to the president, who will refer the matter to a competent committee and then to the whole assembly.

If the Minister concerned thinks the proposal should be taken into consideration the measure will take a regular course. If he does not think so, but two-thirds of the assembly supports it, the President will refer it to the council of the Empire, which will submit it to the Czar. If the latter authorizes the measure the Ministers will be obliged to elaborate it. The members of the assembly will receive \$5 daily and their traveling expenses.

LONDON, Aug. 1.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Times says that optimism regarding the projected national assembly prevails in diplomatic as well as in public circles. It is believed that the assembly will be assembled, convoked, perhaps even within a few days. It is also believed that the internal conditions are far from presenting the desperate character ascribed to them by reformers and that the country will be able to proceed through the assembly and work out peacefully the form of government best suited to the needs of the people.

There remains one cloud, however, and that is a large one. It is the difficulty of reconciling the foreboding liberal intentions with the persistent and increasing acts of repression, of which the persecution of reformers is the most conspicuous.

**COULDN'T STOP RINGING FARES.**

Brent Conductor With a Tale of a Charged Rod on the Register.

Defective insulation on a car of the 18th street cross-town line caused the brass rod attached to the fare register to become charged with electricity. When the conductor, William Markand, of 401 East 123d street, rang up a fare he received a shock and could not relax his hold of the handle on the rod. In his fright, he says, he rang up a dollar's worth of fares.

Inspector Maher of the company was on the car and he ordered the motorman to stop. When the current was shut off the conductor released himself easily, but his troubles were not over.

The inspector felt of the register rod and finding it harmless thought that Markand was shamming. He told Markand that he would have a talk with the company and that he would take charge himself and ordered the car to go ahead. As it did so he again put his hand on the handle of the register rod and his struggles as he got the shock cost him five fares. When the car was stopped the conductor and inspector counted up their losses and then they fixed the rod.

The car was laid off at the end of the trip, and the conductor quit with it. He said it cost too much to work on that road.

**PIRATE MOTOR BOAT**

With Three Bales of Cotton Aboard Captured in Erie Basin.

A boat fitted with a motor and containing three bales of cotton was captured early last evening in the Erie Basin by Roundsman Mulhall and the crew of police launch No. 5. About 5:30 o'clock when the rain was coming down in sheets the police launch off Coffey street, Brooklyn, saw a queer looking small boat with two men in it and neither of them rowing. The men apparently had seen the police first. They headed for the basin and Mulhall gave orders to the steersman to cut across after them.

When the police launch got to the basin the craft was drifting out again, but this time there was no one in it. In the stern were the three bales of cotton, worth \$150, and two pairs of oars. The thieves had climbed to one of the piers and got away. The bales were marked "North Texas Warehouse Company, Gainesville, Tex."

A few months ago two river pirates in the same sort of a boat were caught by the police, but were discharged. At that time several bags of cocoa beans were recovered but as no one appeared as owner the men were not held.

The boat and the cotton were taken to Pier A.

**NOT A KEY TO THE MYSTERY.**

Unconscious Man Has Ring of Man Who Did Not Lose It.

The man who had a keyring in his pocket belonging to James V. Lawrence of Yonkers is still unconscious in St. James's Hospital at Newark. James V. Lawrence and his father visited the hospital yesterday. They said the injured man was a stranger, but identified the keyring as young Lawrence's property.

Mr. Lawrence could not account for his keyring being in the man's possession. He had discarded it some time ago when friends gave him a more valuable ring.

The injured man sustained a fracture of the skull and an operation was performed Sunday which relieved him but did not restore his senses. He had returned tickets to this city from Newark on both the Central and Pennsylvania railroads. The Pennsylvania ticket was bought at Cortlandt street on Saturday, and the other on Monday last.

Mr. Lawrence had business associations in Newark and was in the habit of visiting that city.

The injured man wore a soft hat purchased at the Williamsport Pa. Hat and Clothing Company.

The Newark police have failed to learn how the man was injured. They are, however, sure he fell from a trolley car.

Nothing Quite Equals It.

The Twentieth Century Limited, the 11-hour train between New York and Chicago, by the New York Central Lines.—Ad.

## SECY. WILSON AT OYSTER BAY.

HAS A LONG TALK WITH PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.

He Says the Reforms He Has Devised Have Received the President's Approval—Leads From the Bureau of Statistics, He Says, Are No Longer Feasible.

OYSTER BAY, July 31.—Secretary Wilson and Baron Rosen reached here at 12:20 o'clock to-day. The official reception committee, appointed to receive them at the station consisted of Julius, the President's coachman; Reader, the President's footman, and John Kelly and Tom Lightfoot, the White House messengers. A summer shower was falling, and as the carriage was being driven away with coat collars turned up and hats pulled down over their ears.

The same train brought the Hon. J. W. Riddle, who has just been accredited Minister to Rumania. Mr. Riddle said his call was purely in accordance with the formality that demands that a diplomat before departing for his post shall have a personal interview with the President. He was driven to Sagamore Hill in a public hack.

Secretary Wilson had a long heart to heart talk with the President at Sagamore Hill, which he took to the White House. When the Secretary returned to the railway station he was in a very cheerful mood. He willingly posed for his picture with Baron Rosen, and told the newspaper men that the reforms he has devised have received the approval of the President.

The Bureau of Statistics, he said, is no longer a one man affair, and leaks will hereafter be impossible, because four recognized and well trained scientists are going to run it, and each will serve as a check on the others. Two will be Southerners.

"Did you discuss the possibility of your resignation?" he was asked.

"No," laughed the Secretary. "I am like Andrew Fairbanks in 'Rob Roy.' You remember what he said to his master who wanted to discharge him: 'If you don't know when you have a good servant, you know when I have a good master.' It would be cowardice for me to resign, now that my Department is under fire. Now is the time I must stick to my post."

The Secretary said that he discussed all the affairs of the Department with the President as he has done in to-day's run, and that in his mind the investigation was nearly finished.

"Trouble," said he, in reply to a question, "all the trouble there was originated in the quarrel of two gamblers over a woman. One was a bull and the other a bear; one necessarily lost, and he didn't like it."

When asked for his opinion on the interview given out by President Harvie Jordan of the Southern Cotton Association at Atlanta, in which Mr. Jordan said Secretary Wilson's resignation will be demanded, and pointing out that the reports on the cotton and tobacco acreage were falsified by Hyde and Holmes, the Secretary answered:

"You won't hear me criticizing those gentlemen who are pitching into me so hard. The trouble with the acreage report lay not in the system now in use but in the reporters. It is true that when gone over by the board of four there was found to be a difference of 3½ per cent. from the report of Hyde and Holmes."

"Do I believe Hyde went to England for his health? No, his wife wrote me to that effect and that she urged him to go. I sent the letter to the Department of Justice. The papers in the case of George T. Moore are also in the hands of the Department of Justice, largely as a matter of form, for I don't know as yet whether they can make out a case against him. He is no business man. I believe he didn't know that he oughtn't to have held the stock in the Nitro Culture Company as long as he was employed by the Department. Certainly Prof. Callaway, or Calloway, and Mr. Woods and his superiors are not to blame. They didn't know about him any more than I know about Hyde and Holmes. It's a pretty hard thing to know what a fellow is doing when he goes home at night."

Two telegrams were handed to the Secretary by the President's messenger before he embarked on the train.

"Here is somebody who has a good word to say," smiled the Secretary, and read the following telegram:

WASHINGTON, July 31, 1905.  
Hon. James Wilson, Oyster Bay.  
DEAR SIR: In reference to the interview of President Harvie Jordan, published this morning in the Washington Post, I would say that I cannot endorse the same. The farmers and cotton growers of the South have implicit confidence in your honesty and ability, and they hope the President will not interfere with the great work you are now doing for them.

E. S. PETERS,  
Vice-President Southern Cotton Association.

The other telegram, dated in New York to-day, read: "Have sent the President a telegram so he will know how great commercial bodies we represent and how we are in the Department and work." This dispatch was signed by William S. Harvey, a New York merchant. The telegram to the President was highly laudatory of Secretary Wilson.

"When I came to the Department," went on the Secretary, "I found some roller top desks and some half starved scientists, and I had to make a Department from that material. It was a job. But this new board of four scientists will be well paid men of high standing in the community. Two will be from the South, and an opportunity will be given them to travel. Each one will make his individual report and then they will be compared. The Assistant Secretary will be a fifth member of the board. No more reliance on one man. One may get sick or die or leave or prove a rascal and leave a hole in the bureau."

The Secretary added that his Western trip is postponed because the Department of Justice may need him in Washington.

**ROSEN SEES THE PRESIDENT.**

Makes Arrangements for M. Witte to Be Received on Friday.

OYSTER BAY, July 31.—Baron Rosen, the Russian Ambassador and junior peace envoy, called upon the President to-day to arrange for the visit of his senior, M. Witte, now on the ocean.

"M. Witte," said Baron Rosen at the station, "is coming to lunch with the President on Friday in order to make his formal call. The President and M. Witte have never met."

Baron Rosen had seen the report of an interview with M. Witte on board ship, but would not comment on it.

The Baron, with Secretary Wilson, posed for a photographer at the station.

## SAFE BLOWN IN VIEW OF STREET.

Burglars Got \$2,000 in Jewels and Money From Cigar Store.

A safe in the cigar store and poolroom of Charles Armbruster & Co at 1319 Third avenue was blown open early yesterday morning and money and jewelry, amounting to \$2,000 taken. J. N. Schneider, the man in charge of the place, closed up at 4 o'clock, locked the lights burning and throwing back the curtains at the windows.

At 9 o'clock Larry Purcell, a clerk, opened the store and found that the safe, which was in plain sight from the window, had a large hole blown in the door and had been emptied. Nitroglycerine had been used, and the safe crackers had torn up the matting from the floor and taken the covers from the pool tables to descend the noise.

The thieves escaped, according to the manager of the store, \$3,000 in money and \$2,000 worth of jewelry that had been left in the safe by customers who had gone away for the summer.

The same store was entered about three months ago, when the robbers got only a few dollars. A jewelry store at 824 Third avenue, almost across the street, was entered a week ago and watches worth \$200 were taken. The police of the East Sixty-seventh street station have never reported anything but "progress."

**MIXUP IN THEATER.**

Five Men at Proctor's 5th Street Would Block the Aisle.

When the curtain went up on "The Gunner's Mate" at Proctor's Fifth Street Theatre last night five men stood in the gallery at the top of the center aisle, blocking the way. Frank Simon, special officer at the theater, asked the men to move and they told him to go to a warmer climate than Manhattan. Simon started to shove them down the gallery stairs and that made such an uproar that the actor got on the stage and tried to hear.

It broke up the play pretty effectively.

When the men got to the box office they wanted their money back. Manager Robinson appeared and they took a punch at him. When Policeman Strough got there four of the men ran, but the fifth hit Strough in the nose. Strough downed him and he was locked up in the East Fifty-first street station. He said he was John Franklin of 872 Second avenue.

**GEO. WHEELOCK'S FLAT ROBBED.**

Two Bellboys of the Dorothea Have Quit Their Jobs Recently.

Mrs. George L. Wheelock, wife of the bookmaker, who lives on the third floor of the Dorothea hotel, 101st street, has reported to the Detective Bureau that her apartment was robbed of \$1,000 worth of lace, furs and jewelry while she was in the country from June 21 to the 29th.

When she returned, she said, she found everything in her rooms upside down. Two curtains of Irish lace, emrines and sealisks and valuable jewelry were missing, as well as a number of trinkets she valued because of their associations.

Detectives learned that two colored bellboys had quit their jobs at the apartment house recently and that nobody knew where they could be found. They learned also that other guests in the place had suffered from petty robberies.

**TO SAVE A LITTLE WHITE COFFIN.**

Fire Driver Perils Lives of Company and Wrecks Engine to Miss a Hearse.

Engine 121, with its three horses, set out yesterday to answer an alarm in Williamsburg. John Dwyer was driving, and on the engine were Foreman Thomas Cleary and Engineer Michael Fitzgerald.

At North Seventh street a funeral came along. To avoid crashing into the hearse, which contained a little white casket, Dwyer pulled toward the sidewalk. One horse fell and the others became unmanageable.

Directly behind the engine was the tender. The driver, to avoid running into the hearse, let his team go ahead, and the wagon pole struck the boiler of the engine and demolished it.

**CROOKS LEAVING CHICAGO.**

"We Have Them Jumping Hurdles," Says Lieut. Rohan.

CHICAGO, July 31.—The general clean-up order issued by the Police on Saturday has already resulted in the arrest of twenty men with police records by officers of the Central detail. They are charged with vagrancy.

Detectives and policemen have been informed of the desire of the chief for a round-up of suspicious characters. "We have them jumping hurdles," said Lieut. Andrew Rohan. "Word has been passed down the line that Chicago is indulging in a general clean-up, and reports are reaching the office from all sections showing that all known crooks are leaving town for a more congenial climate."

**FOUND IN SOUTH AFRICA.**

Lost Man Who Embezzled \$16,000 May Be Arrested.

BOSTON, July 31.—The police department is expecting to hear at any moment of the arrest of Frank C. Miles, former treasurer of the Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company, who disappeared from here nine years ago, and was afterward accused of robbing the institution of \$160,000. Miles, the police have learned, has been located at Cape Town, South Africa. The authorities of this city have been communicated with those of that city, and have instructed them to put him under arrest. Besides the alleged embezzlement of the company's funds, it was charged that Miles looted the treasury of the Union Club of about \$17,000.

It is said that Miles wrote a letter acknowledging that he had pledged securities for the company for losses that he had sustained in the stock market. After Miles disappeared the police kept a watch on his residence on Beacon street, as well as at his country place at London, Vt., but nothing came of it. Some of his friends got the idea that he had killed himself, but the company in New York that bonded him believed so. Miles is now about 62 years old.

**FINANCIAL ITEM.**

Two men who described themselves as Henry S. Parker, 22 years old, and John Lee, 23 years old, both bankers, they said, had a dispute with a waiter on the New York Roof Garden last night over 15 cents. They were taken to the West Forty-seventh street station, where they settled sooner than he was locked up.

Mrs. E. R. Thomas Better.

NEWPORT, R. I., July 31.—The condition of Mrs. Edward R. Thomas, who has been ill at her Newport villa, was reported this evening as being much improved. No operation was necessary.

## JAIL MRS. WETMORE'S SHADOW

NEGRO DETECTIVE IS LOCKED UP FOR FOLLOWING HER.

Says in Court He Was Employed by Major Wetmore's First Wife's Lawyers to Get Evidence as to the Major's Health, Whose Estate She'll Sue for Children.

When Mrs. Katherine B. Wetmore, the second wife of Major William B. Wetmore, of 37 Madison avenue, New York, left her summer home at Allentown yesterday, she came to this city and noticed a negro loitering in front of the house. She recognized him as one whom she had seen taking a snap shot of the Major's house and grounds on Sunday afternoon, and who late in the afternoon crept up close to a vine covered veranda with his camera and tried to take a picture of the family while they were having tea on the porch. The Major ordered the away and berated him for his impudence.

Mrs. Wetmore was greatly annoyed by the negro's action and she was further distressed by the fact that he followed her to the station. She says she talked to the station agent and boarded the train she took for Jersey City.

On the train the negro asked the conductor to tell him where the woman who got to Allentown was going, and the conductor related the circumstance to Mrs. Wetmore.

She suspected that he was a thief bent on stealing her diamonds, and concluded to notify the Jersey City police by telegraph to arrest him when the train arrived.

She walked back through the train at Matamoras, and the negro, realizing that she had her eye on him, hurriedly got off the rear platform. The telegram was sent, and it was discovered that the black man had again boarded the train.

When the train pulled into the Jersey Central station at Communipaw, at 1:55 P. M., the negro jumped off. He was joined by another black man and a white man, who Mrs. Wetmore said looked like a Hebrew. Mrs. Wetmore addressed the negro who had followed her, and asked what he wanted. She did not get much satisfaction, and called Policeman Howe, who arrested him.

The prisoner took the precaution to tear up a subpoena he had in his pocket. The fragments were picked up, and subsequently disappeared.

The prisoner described himself as Worden A. Smith of 184 Adelphi street, Brooklyn. He was taken across the gap ferry to the First precinct station. Mrs. Wetmore promised to follow in a few minutes. She said she would go over the Liberty street ferry and across to Cortlandt street ferry, but she made a mistake in her excitement and boarded a Twenty-third street boat, causing much delay.

While in New York she telephoned to her lawyer, George Ludlow, and he reached Jersey City before she drove up to the station house in an auto hansom.

Smith was arraigned in the First Criminal Court as a disorderly person. Mrs. Wetmore told of the negro's strange actions in following her from Allentown to Jersey City, and said that she suspected he was a thief who was planning to steal her jewelry.

She was extremely nervous and indignant over the discovery that the negro was a private detective. Smith said he had been engaged by the law firm of Jay & Chandler of 48 Wall street, attorneys for Major Wetmore's first wife, now Mrs. James W. Markoe. He declared they had directed him to shadow Major Wetmore for the purpose of ascertaining the condition of his health, so the first Mrs. Wetmore would be ready in the event of his death to institute a suit which she has in contemplation, with the view of securing a share of the estate for her children.

He was fined \$25 for his behavior and didn't get out of jail until 8:30 o'clock last night, when a colored friend paid his fine.

William Boerum Wetmore's first wife, Annette, obtained a divorce in 1892 with the custody of the three children, alimony of \$3,000 a year and \$1,000 a year for the support of the children.

By the decree Wetmore was directed to give two bonds of \$25,000 each to secure the payment of the alimony and the children's allowance. He evaded doing so by leaving the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. He was adjudged a bankrupt in Pennsylvania in 1898, and in the schedule he put \$17,000 arrears of alimony he owed his wife, Mrs. Wetmore, finally secured a judgment against him for \$45,000 back alimony after he had been declared in contempt of court.

Early this year Major Wetmore announced that he had settled with his former wife for \$100,000 cash in lieu of any claims that she might have against him.

Major Wetmore's present wife was Miss Katherine B. Havercamp. They live in a fine house at Allentown. Major Wetmore is a retired army officer.

Dr. Markoe, who married the first Mrs. Wetmore, said last night that he knew nothing about yesterday's incident.

**TRIED CHLOROFORM ON WIFE.**

Husband Offers Fact That He's a "Strenuous Young Man" in Explanation.

George Watson, 32 years old, who lives at 2718 Hudson boulevard, Jersey City, was arrested yesterday charged with trying to chloroform his wife, Effie. He admitted that he administered the dose at 2 o'clock last Wednesday morning, thinking she was asleep. He denied any intention of wanting to kill and explained his conduct by saying that he was a "strenuous young man."

To Detective Sergeant William Robinson Mrs. Watson made the following statement:

About 2 o'clock Wednesday morning I was awakened by a cold sensation on my nose. I saw my husband standing over me and kept quiet. He took a bottle out of his pocket and placed it to my nose. He again put it to my nose and I began to choke. I turned away as he nudged me a second time and told him to let me alone, saying I wanted to sleep.

Later Mrs. Watson accused her husband in the presence of her mother-in-law of trying to kill her, and the latter said he was "only joking" and had no intention of putting her out of the way.

Mrs. Watson called at Smith's drug store, having seen his name on the label, and satisfied herself that her husband had purchased the chloroform there.

**DEWY'S "BRUT-UVEN" CHAMPAGNE.**